(v) Phased replacement of timber support by steel support is being done.

(vi) Reducing exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations by increasing use of SDLs & LHDs in underground mines. Also Powered Support Logwpi! technology, where the face workers work under skin-to-sk„i steel roof support, have been introduced in some mines.

(vii) Regular monitoring of mine environment by hand held gas-detectors and flame safety lamps, Besides computerised continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring system have been introduced in some mines.

(viii) Examining the danger of inundation from txjth surface and underground sources of water before every monsoon.

(ix) Promoting workers participation in safety management through various bodies from the mine level to area level, subsidiary company level and OIL level.

(x) Coal India Ltd. has made a thorough review of precautions against inundation in its mines and check correlation survey have been undertaken to establish the barriers between waterlogged workings wherever danger of inundation exists.

(xi) A comprehensive action-plan is under implementation to reduce accidents in opencast mines and at surface of mines.

(xii) Thrust on training & re-training of workmen including contractor's workers and supervisors.

Closure of Unviable Mines

2839. SHRI K.NATWAR SINGH:
DR.T.SUBBARAMl REDDY:

Will the l^inister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Coal and Mines has approached the Cabinet for permission to close down unviable mines; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Department of

coal has not approached the Cabinet for permission to close down unviable mines. However, the Department of Mines had approached the Cabinet for budgetary support in order to be able to meet expenses for likely separation of manpower on closing of the unviable copper mines of Hindustan Copper Limited at Surda and Khetri.

Coal washeries in PSUs

†2840.SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRIRAMJETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal washeries are in public sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the washing capacity of all such washeries;

(c) the percentage of the capacity utilised for coal washing during the years 1999,2000 and 2001; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on coal washing processing per tonne In the each year mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) 19 coal washeries have been set up in CIL to wash coal.

(b) to (d) washery-wise washing capacity, utilisation and coal processing cost per tonne for the years 1999-2000,2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

Washery	Capacity	Capacity utilization (%)			Process	ling cost (Rs./Tonne)	
	(MTY)	99-00	00-01	01-02	99-00	00-01	01-02
Ougda II	2.00	52.95	44.07	32.74	348.00	331.00	447.00
Bhojudih	1.70	80.24	71.79	58.32	252.00	302.00	340.00
Patherdlh	1.60	39.94	34.89	23.98	366.00	498.00	629.00
Lodna	0.48	72.50	50.73	35.88	198.00	293.00	346.00
SudamdJh	1.60	53.63	49.93	41.11	324.50	378.00	393.00

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.